

# MICRO MINUTES

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## $\overline{CE}$ FOR THE MC146818

The chip enable pin ( $\overline{CE}$ ) on the MC146818 may be used for two functions. The first use of this pin is the normal chip select function. The second use of the chip enable line is to isolate the MC146818 from a system which is being powered down, thus preserving the RAM and clock contents. When  $\overline{CE}$  is high, all Address/Data (A/D), Data Strobe (DS), Address Strobe (AS), and Read/Write (R/W) are disconnected within the MC146818.

The comparator circuit shown in Figure 1 will trip whenever the unregulated 12V supply falls. Of course, the trip point may be changed to suit individual systems. If only 5 volts is available, the trip point should be set close enough to the reference point to guarantee 2 Address Strobe clocks after the comparator trips (50-200 mV typical) but still allows for system  $V_{CC}$  margin. Also, in a +5V system, the

reference and sense point will drop during power down. A long time constant on the reference point is recommended.

An alternate voltage sensing circuit employing a zener diode is shown in Figure 2. The circuit uses a one (1) volt sense into the base of a NPN transistor. Other supply voltages may be sensed by selecting the appropriate zener diode ( $V_{sense} - 1 = V_{zener}$ ). CMOS MPU's may be directly interfaced with this circuit. If the circuit is used with NMOS MPU's i.e.,  $V_{CC \text{ min.}} = 4.75V$ , the sense voltage must be increased to allow for 2 Address Strobes before  $V_{CC \text{ min.}}$  occurs.

Both of these circuits will select or deselect Chip Enable ( $\overline{CE}$ ) during the time Address Strobe (AS) is high, which is required on those units with date code GC6XXXX.

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# MC146818



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FIGURE 1 —  $\overline{CE}$  DURING AS HIGH TIME

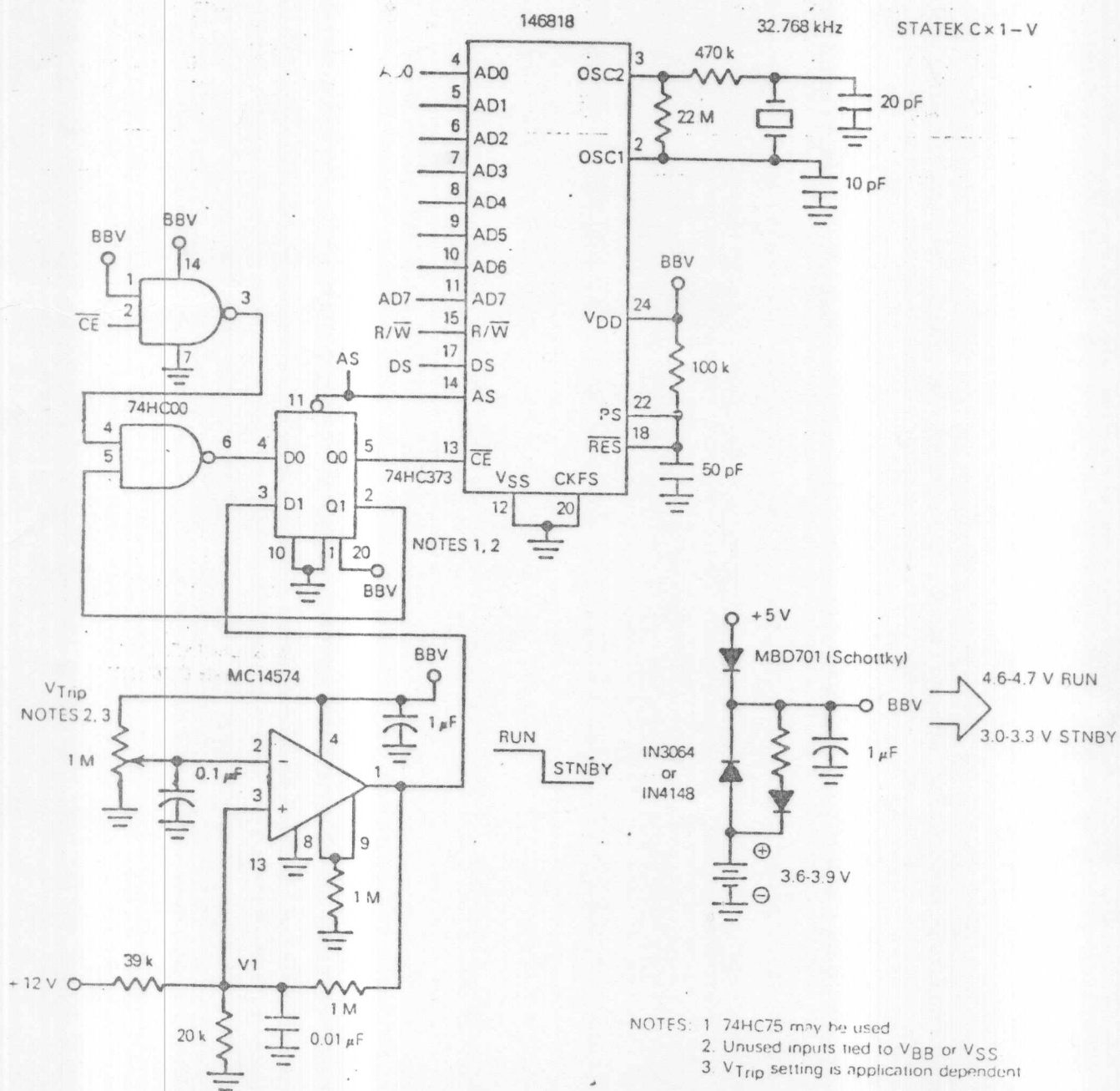
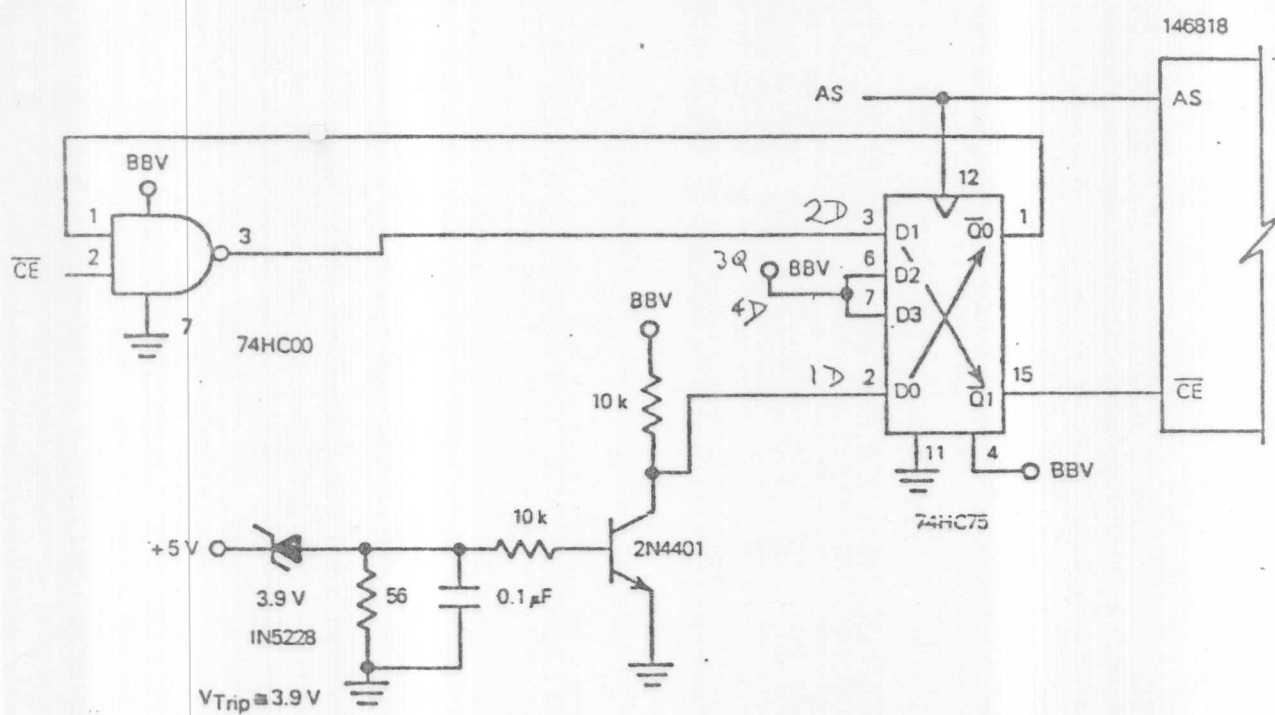
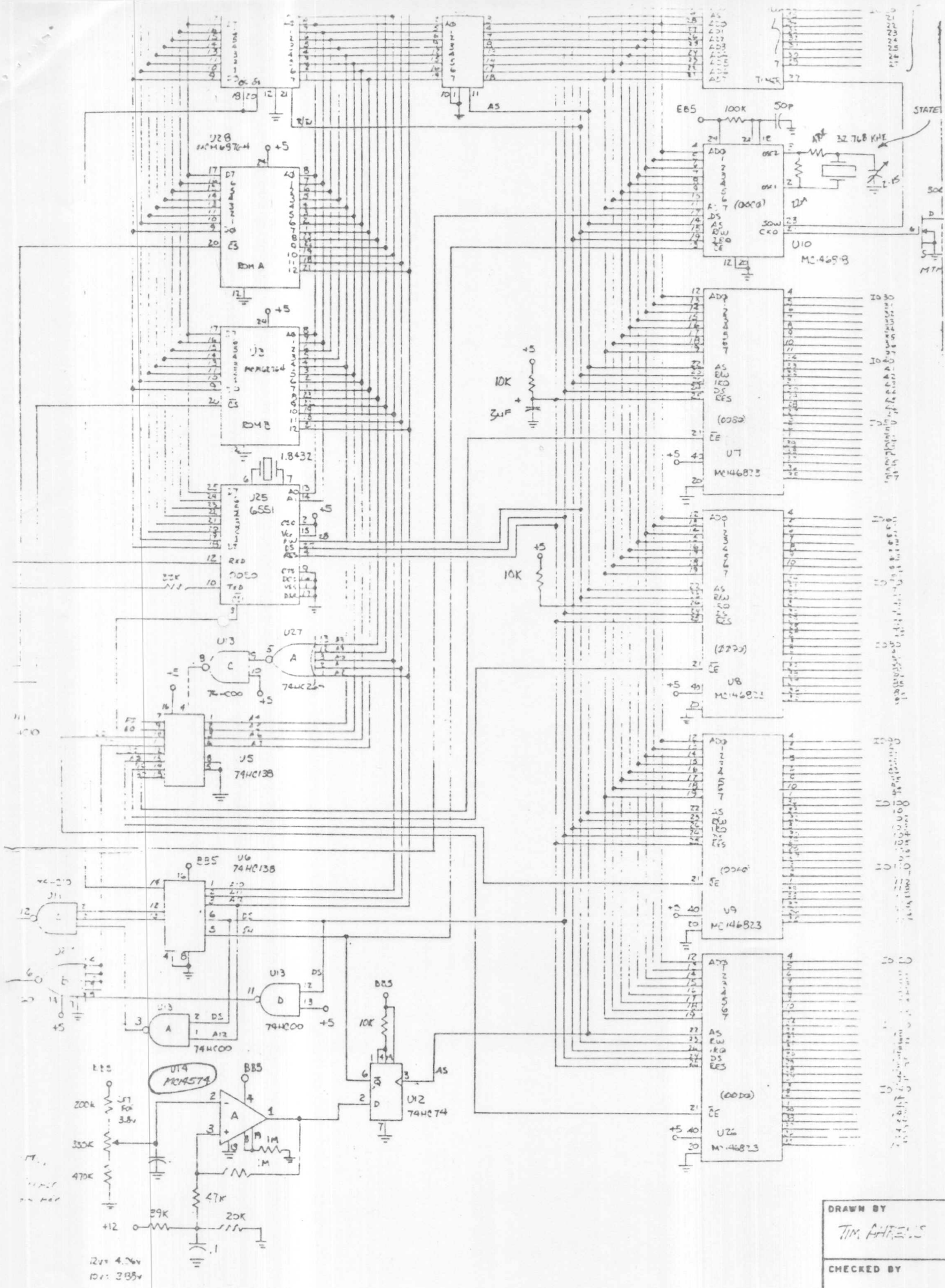


FIGURE 2 —  $\overline{CE}$  SELECTION AT A.S. HIGH TIME (CMOS MPU's)





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